

CITY OF TUCSON
MEC 2015-2016 FINAL REPORT

METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION

The Metropolitan Education Commission (MEC) Key Measures of Performance progress is outlined below:

Key Measures of Performance:

Administrative Functions	<u>Adopted FY 16</u>	<u>Actual 6/30/16</u>
• Number of MEC monthly meetings	10	10
• Number of updates to RCAC website	400	699
 Regional College Access Center		
• Number of unduplicated participants who • complete Free Application for Federal • Student Aid (FAFSA) forms	350	377
• Number of unduplicated participants who enter Pima Community College, U of A or an out-of- State college or university	500	591
• Number of unique visits to the RCAC website	9,500	26,012
• Number of unduplicated students, guardians and educators trained on the use of RCAC website for college planning	3,500	1,942
• Expansion of RCAC access locations	13	21
• Number of School Districts united by MOU's for Postsecondary Success In Tucson & Pima County	7	7
 Youth Ambassador Program		
• Number of Ambassadors	13	19
• Number of classroom presentations	50	—
 Key to 21st Century Employment		
• Number of students participants	400	359
• Percentage of students who obtain career advice	80%	100%
• Percentage of students whose interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics careers increases	70%	80%
 Teen Town Hall		
• Number of student participants	200	190
• Number of area leaders present	25	35

	<u>Adopted</u>	<u>Actual June 30th</u>
Crystal Apple Awards		
• Number of participating school districts	8	8
• Number of participating youth	25	27
• Number of participating elected officials	10	7
• Number of awards presented	11	11
Leveraged Funds		\$250,175.32 (Cash)
Other municipal, foundation and federal		<u>74,526.38</u> (In-Kind)
funds leveraged	\$440,000	\$326,241.70 TOTAL

Deliverables

• Annual Teen Town Hall Report	Quantity 1	1 (Attached)
• Annual Key Advocacy Issues & Collaborating Organizations	Quantity 1	1
• Performance Measure Report	Quantity 4	4

Section 3: Services to be provided by The City

A sum of money in the amount of Nineteen Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$19,570) to be paid as set forth in Section 13 below.

Section 4: Responsibility for Open Records

The **Agency** agrees to make open all records relating to any funds directly received from the City that the **Agency** distributes to other organizations and individuals.

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Administrative Functions

Number of MEC Monthly Meetings

Date

8/08/2015

Meeting

August - MEC Retreat

The Retreat was held at the University of Arizona on August 8, 2015. It was attended by a majority of MEC Commissioners and student representatives from Vail, Catalina Foothills, Tucson, Flowing Wells, Marana, and Sunnyside school districts. A panel composed of Pima County Supervisor Richard Elías; Dr. John Pedicone, Southern Arizona Leadership Council; Diane Wolfe Naimark, Children's Action Alliance; and Jason Freed, Arizona Education Association, discussed state funding of education. Small group planning developed plans for the funding of the Regional College Access Center (RCAC), Education Advocacy, and Youth Advisory Council/Tucson Teen Congress activities.

Date

Meeting

9/16/2015

MEC Regular Meeting

City Manager Michael Ortega was the MEC guest. He discussed his background working with education issues and addressed Commissioners' questions. The MEC is delighted to have a City Manager knowledgeable about K-12 education issues faced by Tucson. The Commissioners adopted a Logic Model for the long-term sustainability of the RCAC. The MEC 2015-2016 Executive Board officers were elected. They are: Chair – Pat Wiedhopf; Vice-Chair – George Favela; Secretary – Paul Lovelis; Treasurer – Bill Ardern; Appointments Chair – Deborah Embry.

Friday, October 30, 2015

MEC Emergency Meeting

An Emergency Meeting was called on October 30th, 2015 to discuss the Arizona Legislature K-12 Funding Plan. It was voted to establish a committee to develop an MEC Resolution regarding this plan.

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

MEC Regular Meeting

The MEC Resolution regarding the Arizona Legislature's K=12 Funding Plan was discussed. It was unanimous vote to table the Resolution. It was also decided to inform the Commissioners with more details concerning the planned May 17, 2016 Arizona Special Election on School Funding.

Wednesday, December 16, 2016

MEC Regular Meeting

The MEC was host to two speakers to discuss the 2016 Arizona Special Election on School Funding. They were Dr. Timothy Ogle, Arizona School Boards Association, and Andrew Morrill, Arizona Education Association.

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

MEC Regular Meeting

The January 2016 MEC meeting featured a presentation by Arizona State Treasurer Jeff Dewit on Proposition 123 which will be on the May 17, 2016 ballot. In addition to the MEC Commissioner attendees, 92 community members signed in and attended this presentation.

Date

Wednesday, February 17, 2016

MEC Regular Meeting

The February 2016 MEC meeting featured MEC Commissioners activities reports, as the Commissioners outlined the activities and plans of themselves and their constituencies as related to education issues.

Date

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

MEC Regular Meeting

The MEC march meeting featured a presentation on the Arizona Education & Career Action Plan (ECAP) by Kay Schreiber, Arizona College & Career Ready & Arizona School Counselors Coordinator.

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

MEC Regular Meeting

The April 2016 MEC meeting featured a presentation on the City Budget by Tucson City Manager Michael Ortega, and a discussion about the upcoming Proposition 123 ballot item. A Committee was formed to address the outcome of the election, which will meet after the May 17th election.

PLEASE NOTE: The MEC does not hold its Regular Meeting in the months of June & July; as there were two meetings in October 2015, the MEC also did not hold a Regular Meeting in May 2016.

MEC ACTIVITIES

The MEC continues to engage the community through advocating for education and collaborations. These collaborations include the Southern Arizona Community-Schools Alliance, Pima County Workforce Investment Board Youth Council, National College Access Network (NCAN), Arizona College Access Network (AzCAN Steering Committee), Expect More Arizona, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Arizona Sci-Tech Festival, College Success Arizona, and others.

On April 14, 2016, the Helios Education Foundation held a press conference at Catalina High School to announce to Southern Arizona the kick-off of the College Knowing & Going Initiative. As the Southern Arizona Intermediary under this initiative, the MEC's Regional College Access Center (RCAC) united with the Arizona College Access Network in Phoenix and the Northern Arizona College Access Network in Flagstaff through College Success Arizona for student success in higher education. Eighteen school districts statewide which include Pima County's Flowing Wells, Sunnyside, Tucson, Vail, and Santa Cruz County's Nogales Unified form a partnership to coordinate a series of student supports during the Junior and Senior years of high school. These include: Test preparation and administration of the ACT; Assistance with college applications and FAFSA forms; and ECAP development. A special attention is given to the fast-growing demographic of Latino and Latina students.

March 4th, 2016 marked the release of "Beyond Dollars: The Economic and Social Value of Arizona Nonprofits". Published by the William Seidman Research Institute at the W.P. Carey School of Business at ASU, in conjunction with the Arizona Alliance of Nonprofits, the Phoenix Philanthropy Group, and the Arizona Community Foundation, the publication profiles the MEC as one of five moving the community forward. The MEC profile reads: "The Metropolitan Education Commission (MEC) was the first in the United States to bring city and county government entities together with leaders from public and private schools, businesses, government, social services, the Hispanic-Native-African-Asian American communities, and youth to address all areas affecting the educational welfare of Tucson and Pima County residents.

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL/TUCSON TEEN CONGRESS

In 2015-2016 the Youth Advisory Council/Tucson Teen Congress (YAC/TTC) concentrated on civic engagement of elected officials on education issues, broader community outreach, and programmatic activities/volunteering at these activities and events.

The Arizona League of Cities & Towns held its annual Youth Conference at the Starr Pass Resort on August 19, 2015. Five YAC/TTC members and an adult chaperone attended, made possible by registration funding from the City Manager's Office. 20 youth councils from all over Arizona, including the YAC/TTC, were in attendance and interacted through discussions and breakout sessions.

The YAC/TTC hosted the 21st Annual Teen Town Hall on October 23, 2015 at Catalina Magnet High School; 190 students and 35 community leaders attended. As was the case last year, the YAC/TTC selected three main issues that were raised at the Teen Town Hall, and formed committees to address each issue. These issues were: Public Education Funding, Teacher Retention and Pay, and School Infrastructure and Technology Issues.

At their January 6, 2016 meeting, the YAC/TTC received training on how the state legislature works and advocacy protocols from Senator Steve Farley and Representative Chris Ackerly. Next, the YAC/TTC members formed 3 committees to address each of the three issues as discussion items when meeting with the state legislators. Next, a Mock Legislative Role-Playing exercise was held at the MEC office, where the students practiced dialogue with adult role-players.

On March 2, 2016, YAC/TTC members, along with other student representatives who had attended the Teen Town Hall, travelled to the State Capitol in Phoenix for Civic Engagement Day. 27 students from 6 area school districts (Amphitheater, Catalina Foothills, Flowing Wells, Sunnyside, Tucson, and Vail) participated. The group consisted of the MEC's Youth Advisory Council/Tucson Teen Congress (YAC/TTC) members, as well as student representatives from schools that had attended the Teen Town Hall. 6 adult chaperones accompanied the students on the trip and provided assistance.

Area high schools represented included: Andrada Polytechnic, Catalina Foothills, Catalina Magnet, Cholla, Desert View, Flowing Wells, JTED, Rincon, Salpointe Catholic, Sunnyside, University, and Vail Academy High Schools.

The students met with Senators Sylvia Allen, Debbie Lesko, Jay Lawrence, Andy Biggs, John Kavanagh, and Don Shooter, and House Representative Vince Leach. The students presented their cases and concerns professionally, and the exchanges between the students and the legislators were instructive to both parties. The students were also recognized from the floors of both the House and the Senate.

Other YAC/TTC activities included: Suggestions for workshop topics for the LULAC Youth Leadership Conference and Career Fair which was held on March 27, 2015 at Pima Community College's West Campus. 1,173 students attended the event; members selecting the Crystal Apple Counselor and Youth Honorees; selecting 10 Outstanding Teen Citizen honorees from 39 submissions; and 3 Goal One: Graduate! Poster Contest winners. The Outstanding Teen Citizens were presented to the Tucson Mayor & Council on April 21st, 2016.

THE KEY TO EMPLOYMENT FOR THE 21st CENTURY SYMPOSIUM

The Key to Employment for the 21st Century Symposium took place on Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at the University of Arizona Student Union. 359 students, 39 chaperones/educators, and 72 exhibitor entities attended the event. This year we had a significant increase in the number of exhibitors from last year, and the student total would have been over the 400 target, except for one school cancelling at the last minute. The Student Breakout Session Workshops featured the MEC's Regional College Access Center (RCAC), UA College of Engineering, and the 2+2 University of Arizona/Pima Community College Program for students who want to major in a STEM program via Pima and then transferring to UA for a STEM degree. All of these Workshops were well attended.

The Student Evaluations indicated that 99%+ of the students intend to graduate high school and apply for attendance at a post secondary education institution, and 80% indicated interest in pursuing STEM-related career opportunities. Additionally, the U of A's Technical Coordinator from the Telemedicine Distance Learning Department videoed the RCAC and 2+2 Program workshops for dissemination across the state and beyond. The videos are currently available in the DropBox account of the Arizona Telemedicine Program and can be downloaded to any host server so that students and high school counselors can have access to the rich content for the next year.

CRYSTAL APPLE AWARDS LUNCHEON

The 26th Annual Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon took place on April 29, 2016 at the Desert Diamond Casino & Hotel. There were 308 total registered attendees. A total of 27 youth participated, including eleven Youth Advisory Council/Tucson Teen Congress (YAC/TTC) members, ten Outstanding Teen Citizen Honorees from across the Tucson Metro area, one of whom was the Crystal Apple Youth Honoree, three Tucson Pima Arts Council (TPAC) Pima County Youth Arts Awardees, and three Goal One: Graduate! Poster Contest Winners. The Outstanding Teen Citizens, Crystal Apple Youth Honoree, and Poster Contest winners were all selected by a YAC/TTC committee.

The 2016 Crystal Apple Honorees were: Lifetime Achievement Award - Dr. John Pedicone; Education Advocacy Award - General Ronald Shoopman; Teacher Award - Jennifer Anglin, Flowing Wells Junior High School, Flowing Wells Unified School District; Counselor Award - Judy Bowers, Ed.D.; Corporate Award - Cox Communications; Small Business Award - Elliott Accounting; and Youth Award - Nayra Ochoa, Rincon High School, Tucson Unified School District. In addition to these awards, there were the 3 TPAC Youth Arts Awards, and an Appreciation Award presented to former MEC Chair Dr. Kasey Urquidez.

A video, produced by Tucson Unified School District Communications & Media about the MEC's selection as the Southern Arizona component of the statewide Helios College Knowing & Going Initiative was presented.

REGIONAL COLLEGE ACCESS CENTER

The RCAC Student Ambassadors, MEC RCAC AmeriCorps Vista, and the RCAC Coordinator have continued assisting students with FAFSA completion and College "Next Steps" activities. These activities have taken place at Santa Rita HS, Palo Verde HS, Catalina

HS, Pueblo HS, Tucson HS, Flowing Wells HS, Sentinel Peak HS, Desert View HS, and Sunnyside HS. Additional outreach has been offered for students at Pima Partnership HS, Pima Vocational HS, Cienega HS, Amphi HS, and Marana High School. The RCAC Coordinator has continued with planning for a new Helios/College Success Arizona Project entitled “The College Knowing and Going Initiative”. This project will follow the goals that the RCAC already has in place of raising the completion rates for college applications, FAFSA applications, ACT Prep and Summer Melt Prevention. This project has a special focus on Latino populations and will include Flowing Wells Unified School District, Tucson Unified School District, Vail Unified School District, Sunnyside Unified School District, and Nogales Unified School District. The first major project, “The MEC RCAC Summer Melt Program”, funded by the City of Tucson, was initiated on June 1st. RCAC Student Ambassadors, in coordination with the United Way Community Schools liaisons, have been actively communicating with recent high school graduates to offer assistance with college related procedural needs; ie. financial aid requirements, Pima Community College application assistance and Next Steps, etc. etc. Data for these activities will be available at the end of August 2016.